

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for acquiring information pertaining to a document including information, comprising:

5 a meta-document including the document and a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information; and

10 a scheduler for selecting a document service request from the set, for initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service and for integrating any results from the selected document service into the document.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the set of document service requests is selected from a group of pre-packaged document service requests.

15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the results from the selected document service includes a new document service request associated with the document.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the document services are satisfied by a third-party service provider via an Internet protocol.

20 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the scheduler updates the set of document service requests on a predetermined schedule.

25 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the scheduler re-initiates selected document service request on a periodic basis.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the periodic basis is determined by the selected document service request.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the meta-document, the scheduler and the service providers reside at the same location.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the meta-document, the scheduler and the 5 service providers reside at different locations.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to 10 any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously.

15 12. The system of claim 1, wherein the document and the set of document service requests are user-selectable.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein, in addition to the scheduler, a user may select a document service request from the set and initiate and manage communication with a 20 service provider to satisfy the selected document service.

14. The system of claim 1, further comprising a list of document service requests from which the set of document service requests may be selected by a user.

25 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the service provider is user-selectable.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein a service provider can register additional document services to the list.

17. The system of claim 1, further comprising a list of service providers available for satisfying document services.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein the set of document service requests
5 associated with the document are associated using metadata.

19. A method for acquiring information pertaining to a document including information, comprising:

associating a set of document service requests with the document, wherein a
10 document service comprises a process for using a portion of the information;
selecting a document service request from the set;
initiating and managing communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected
document service; and
integrating any results from the selected document service into the document.
15

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of selecting a set of document service requests from a group of pre-packaged document service requests.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the results from the selected document
20 service includes a new document service request associated with the document.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the document services are satisfied by a third-party service provider via an Internet protocol.

25 23. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of updating the set of document service requests on a predetermined schedule.

24. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of re-initiating selected document service requests on a periodic basis.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the periodic basis is determined by the selected document service request.

5 26. The method of claim 19, wherein the set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores.

10 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously.

28. A meta-document, comprising:
a document including content information;
15 a set of document service requests associated with the document, wherein a document service comprises a process for using a portion of the content information; and
wherein, responsive to a scheduler, a document service request is selected from the set and communication with a service provider to satisfy the selected document service is initiated and managed; and
20 wherein, responsive to the scheduler, any results from the selected document service are integrated into the document.

29. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the set of document service requests is selected from a group of pre-packaged document service requests.

25 30. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the results from the selected document service includes a new document service request associated with the document.

31. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the document services are satisfied by a third-party service provider via an Internet protocol.

32. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the scheduler updates the set of
5 document service requests on a predetermined schedule.

33. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the scheduler re-initiates selected document service request on a periodic basis.

10 34. The meta-document of claim 33, wherein the periodic basis is determined by the selected document service request.

15 35. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein set of document services follow a pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers for extracting information from other documents, databases and data stores, and for searching for other information responsive to any extracted information from the other documents, databases and data stores.

36. The meta-document of claim 35, wherein the pre-determined sequence of calls to service providers are satisfiable asynchronously.

20 37. The meta-document of claim 28, wherein the set of document service requests associated with the document are associated using metadata.